



Appendix: Currently Pending Claims

1. A system for matching carrier capacities with shipper loads via a wide area network, a method for generating a bid for a shipper load, comprising:  
selecting a plurality of units of capacity;  
assigning a group identifier to the plurality of units of capacity; and  
generating a bid for the shipper load using the group identifier.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the units of capacity correspond to equipment identifiers defined by a carrier representative.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein the equipment identifiers correspond to at least one of trucking capacity, aircraft capacity, shipping capacity, and rail capacity.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein generating a bid comprises generating a plurality of bid entries, each of the bid entries corresponding to one of the units of capacity.
5. A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium having computer program instructions embedded therein for performing the method of claim 1.
6. In a system for matching carrier capacities with shipper loads via a wide area network, a method for bidding on a plurality of shipper loads, comprising generating a plurality of bids corresponding to the plurality of shipper loads, each of the plurality of bids corresponding to a same unit of capacity.
7. The method of claim 6 wherein the same unit of capacity corresponds to an equipment identifier defined by a carrier representative.
8. The method of claim 7 wherein the equipment identifier corresponds to at least one of trucking capacity, aircraft capacity, shipping capacity, and rail capacity.
9. The method of claim 6 further comprising, in response to acceptance by a shipper representative of one of the plurality of bids, making all others of the plurality of bids unavailable.

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10. The method of claim 6 wherein the same unit of capacity comprises a group comprising a plurality of units of capacity.

11. A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium having computer program instructions embedded therein for performing the method of claim 6.

12. In a system for matching carrier capacities with shipper loads via a wide area network, a method for bidding on a plurality of shipper loads, comprising:  
generating a plurality of bids corresponding to the plurality of shipper loads, each of the plurality of bids corresponding to a same unit of capacity; and  
where one of the plurality of bids is accepted, making all others of the plurality of bids unavailable.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein the same unit of capacity corresponds to an equipment identifier defined by a carrier representative.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the equipment identifier corresponds to one of trucking capacity, aircraft capacity, shipping capacity, and rail capacity.

15. The method of claim 12 wherein the same unit of capacity comprises a group comprising a plurality of units of capacity.

16. A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium having computer program instructions embedded therein for performing the method of claim 12.

17. In a system for matching carrier capacities with shipper loads via a wide area network, a method for generating a bid for a shipper load, comprising:  
generating the bid for the shipper load designating a currently unavailable unit of capacity, the bid being identified as a future bid; and  
when the currently unavailable unit of capacity becomes available, updating the bid to a current bid.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein the currently unavailable unit of capacity corresponds to an equipment identifier defined by a carrier representative.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein the equipment identifier corresponds to one of trucking capacity, aircraft capacity, shipping capacity, and rail capacity.

20. The method of claim 17 wherein the currently unavailable unit of capacity comprises a group comprising a plurality of units of capacity.

21. The method of claim 17 further comprising:  
generating additional bids for other shipper loads designating the currently unavailable unit of capacity, the additional bids being identified as additional future bids; and  
when the currently unavailable unit of capacity becomes available, updating the additional bids to a additional current bids.

22. A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium having computer program instructions embedded therein for performing the method of claim 17.

40. In a system for matching carrier capacities with shipper loads via a wide area network, a method for presenting information regarding a bid entered against a particular shipper load, the bid corresponding to a particular carrier capacity, the method comprising communicating a number of shipper loads against which the particular carrier capacity is currently bid.

41. The method of claim 40 wherein the particular unit of capacity corresponds to an equipment identifier defined by the carrier representative.

42. The method of claim 41 wherein the equipment identifier corresponds to one of trucking capacity, aircraft capacity, shipping capacity, and rail capacity.

43. The method of claim 40 wherein the particular unit of capacity comprises a group comprising a plurality of units of capacity.

44. The method of claim 40 wherein the information includes a hyperlink, the method further comprising presenting a bid history relating to the particular shipper load in response to selection of the hyperlink.

45. A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium having computer program instructions embedded therein for performing the method of claim 40.

76. In a system for matching carrier capacities with shipper loads via a wide area network, a method for responding to bids for a shipper load corresponding to a shipper, comprising:

posting the shipper load on the system, the shipper load having an automatic acceptance price associated therewith specified by a shipper representative, the automatic acceptance price being a monetary value at and below which automatic acceptance is authorized;

receiving a bid for the shipper load specifying a bid price; and

where the bid price is less than or equal to the automatic acceptance price, automatically accepting the bid on behalf of the shipper.

77. The method of claim 76 wherein posting the shipper load comprises making the shipper load available to a subset of a plurality of system users as determined from information specified by the shipper representative.

78. The method of claim 76 further comprising notifying the shipper representative regarding acceptance of the bid.

79. The method of claim 78 wherein notifying the shipper representative comprises at least one of transmitting an e-mail to the shipper representative, transmitting a pager signal to the shipper representative, and transmitting a message to be displayed using a system interface to the shipper representative.

80. The method of claim 76 wherein the shipper load also has an automatic notify price associated therewith, the automatic notify price being a monetary value at and below which automatic notification of the shipper representative is authorized, the method further comprising

automatically notifying the shipper representative regarding the bid where the bid price is less than or equal to the automatic notify price.

81. A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium having computer program instructions embedded therein for performing the method of claim 76.

82. In a system for matching carrier capacities with shipper loads via a wide area network, a method for responding to bids for a shipper load corresponding to a shipper, comprising:

posting the shipper load on the system, the shipper load having an automatic notify price associated therewith specified by a shipper representative, the automatic notify price being a monetary value at and below which automatic notification of the shipper representative is authorized;

receiving a bid for the shipper load specifying a bid price; and

where the bid price is less than or equal to the automatic notify price, automatically notifying the shipper representative regarding the bid.

83. The method of claim 82 wherein posting the shipper load comprises making the shipper load available to a subset of a plurality of system users as determined from information specified by the shipper representative.

84. The method of claim 82 wherein notifying the shipper representative comprises at least one of transmitting an e-mail to the shipper representative, transmitting a pager signal to the shipper representative, and transmitting a message to be displayed using a system interface to the shipper representative.

85. The method of claim 82 wherein the shipper load also has an automatic acceptance price associated therewith, the automatic acceptance price being a monetary value at and below which automatic acceptance is authorized, the method further comprising automatically accepting the bid on behalf of the shipper where the bid price is less than or equal to the automatic acceptance price.

86. A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium having computer program instructions embedded therein for performing the method of claim 82.